

John Boehner
Chairman
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 12:30 p.m. for Morning Hour and 2:00 p.m. for Legislative Business
(No Votes Before 5:00 p.m.)*

Anticipated Floor Action:

H.R. 1048—Welfare Reform Technical Corrections Act

H.R. 1342—Extending Expiring Conservation Reserve Program Contracts

H.R. 279—Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Francis Sinatra

**H.R. 680—Authorizing the Transfer of Surplus Federal Property to Private
Charities**

H.R. 363—Extending the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research Program

H.R. 1271— FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act



Bills Considered Under Suspension of the Rules

Floor Situation: The House will consider the following five bills under suspension of the rules as its first order of business today. Each is debatable for 40 minutes, may not be amended, and requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

H.R. 1048—Welfare Reform Technical Corrections Act makes several technical changes to the welfare reform law enacted last year (the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act; *P.L. 104-193*). Most changes correct citation or grammatical errors in the enacted legislation, while others clarify congressional intent behind enacted provisions. The bill is the result of a requirement of the welfare reform law that the Labor, Health, and Human Services (HHS) Secretary and Social Security Commissioner submit proposed technical amendments to Congress, many of which have been included in the bill. CBO estimates that enactment will result in a savings of \$51 million in mandatory outlays over the next five years. H.R. 1048 was introduced by Mr. Shaw and was reported by the Ways & Means Committee by a vote of 33-0 on April 23, 1997.

H.R. 1342—Extending Expiring Conservation Reserve Program Contracts allows farmers, whose current 10-year Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts expire on September 30, 1997, to enter into a one-year contract while the Department of Agriculture evaluates their CRP bid. If the farmer's land is ultimately accepted into CRP, the contract automatically converts to a standard 10-year contract; if the land is rejected, it will be released from CRP after the one-year contract expires on September 30, 1998. CBO estimates that if the bill is enacted before May 30, 1997, enactment will result in net savings of \$75 million in FY 1998, but have no net impact over the 1998-2002 period. If the bill is enacted after May 30, 1997, CBO estimates enactment will result in additional one-time costs of \$200 million in FY 1999. The bill was introduced by Mr. Smith (OR) and reported by the Agriculture Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 279—Awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to Francis Albert Sinatra presents a congressional gold medal to Frank Sinatra in recognition of his accomplishments as an entertainer and a humanitarian. The bill authorizes up to \$30,000 to carry out the cost of providing the medal. A CBO estimate was unavailable at press time. The bill was introduced by Mr. Serrano and was not considered by any committee.

H.R. 680—Authorizing the Transfer of Surplus Federal Property to Private Charities amends the 1949 Federal Property and Administrative Services Act to allow surplus federal property to be used to assist private charities in their role of assisting low-income families. The bill authorizes the donation of such items as clothing and blankets to organizations who serve needy families and the donation of real property to self-help housing groups such as Habitat for Humanity. CBO estimates that enactment of the bill will have no impact on the federal budget. H.R. 680 was introduced by Mr. Hamilton and reported by the Government Reform & Oversight Committee by voice vote.

H.R. 363—Extending the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research Program amends the 1992 Energy Policy Act (EPACT, *P.L. 102-486*) to extend the Electric and Magnetic Fields Research and Public Information Dissemination Program (RAPID) through December 1998, and modifies the program reporting deadlines accordingly. The bill also reduces the total authorization level from \$65 million to \$46 million, which is the total amount needed to complete the program. CBO estimates that enactment will result in additional discretionary spending of \$4 million between 1998-2002. The bill was introduced by Mr. Towns and ordered reported by voice vote by both the Commerce and Science committees.

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #11, April 25, 1997.



H.R. 1271—FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act

Floor Situation: The House will consider H.R. 1271 after it completes consideration of H.R. 363. Last week, the Rules Committee granted an open rule providing one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Science Committee. The rule waives section 306 of the 1974 Budget Act, which prohibits the House from considering legislation within the Budget Committee's jurisdiction unless the Budget Committee reports it. It also makes in order a committee amendment in the nature of a substitute as base text and grants priority in recog-

dition to members who had their amendments pre-printed in the *Congressional Record*. Finally, the rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Summary: H.R. 1271 authorizes \$672.4 million over the next three years for the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) research, engineering, and development programs. The bill also (1) mandates that the president's annual FAA budget request include all basic and applied research and development activities within a single budget category; (2) requires the FAA Administrator's national aviation research plan to highlight the research and development activities which promote technology sharing among government, industry, and academia; (3) directs the administrator to establish a grant program for researchers at undergraduate institutions which involve their undergraduate students in research relevant to the FAA; and (4) expresses the sense of Congress that the FAA should give priority to correcting all two-digit date-related problems in its computer systems to ensure continued operation in the year 2000. CBO estimates that enactment will result in discretionary outlays of \$672 million over three years. H.R. 1271 was introduced by Mrs. Morella and was reported by the Science Committee by voice vote.

Views (on the overall bill):

Republican Leadership: Supports
Chairman Sensenbrenner: Supports
Clinton Administration: Supports

Amendments: At press time, the *Legislative Digest* was aware of the following amendments to H.R. 1271:

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment (#1) to specifically permit funding for undergraduate research grants to go to historically black colleges and universities. Currently, the bill does not make such a distinction. **Contact: x5-3816**

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment (#2) to strike the requirement that all FAA budgets include a single research and development category. The member argues that a single research and development category will limit the president's ability to develop a budget. **Contact: x5-3816**

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment (#3) to strike language in the bill which prohibits the FAA from funding programs that are not specifically authorized by the bill. **Contact: x5-3816**

Ms. Jackson-Lee may offer an amendment (#4) to strike language in the bill which prohibits the FAA from funding lobbying activities. The member argues that the broad limitation on lobbying activities will limit the Transportation Department's ability to advise Congress and the public of its views on pending legislation. **Contact: x5-3816**

Additional Information: See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #11, April 25, 1997.



PLEASE NOTE: UNDER AN OPEN RULE, MEMBERS MAY OFFER ENTIRELY NEW AMENDMENTS TO A BILL AT ANY TIME, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN PRE-PRINTED IN THE *CONGRESSIONAL RECORD*.